



Town of Garner **NEWS RELEASE**

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Smith Completes NRPA Directors School Program

Rob Smith, assistant director with the Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, recently completed the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Directors School, a two-year professional development training program for current and future leaders of parks and recreation agencies. Directors School prepares students to effectively and efficiently lead park and recreation departments so they can best serve the community.

The Directors School curriculum is based on the national standards of best practice for parks and recreation agencies as identified by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). CAPRA accredits park and recreation agencies for excellence in operation and service. Graduates gain insight and skills that enable them to create a successful park and recreation agency.

Smith has worked with the Town for over 18 years and has progressed from a recreation services intern to his current position, where he oversees the day-to-day operations of four programming teams within the department. He is also working with department managers and consultants to provide leadership of the agency's CAPRA accreditation efforts. Smith noted that the school was particularly useful in gathering resources to support that effort.

"I enjoy my position and serving the residents of Garner. The knowledge gained from this educational experience will help our team deliver quality programs the community expects in the most effective manner possible," Smith said.

Sonya Shaw, director of the Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, said: "NRPA's Directors School helps prepare up-and-coming professionals on the leadership, knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in the parks and recreation profession."

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Shaw added that the supervisory and leadership training Smith received will aid him in his work with the department's programming team managers.

The NRPA Directors School attendees are required to apply and be accepted into the school. Directors School is sponsored by the Oglebay National Training Center, NRPA and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management at the North Carolina State University.

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